

CHAPTER NO. 429

SENATE BILL NO. 1801

By Dixon

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1548

By Buck, Ulysses Jones, John DeBerry, Miller, Pleasant, Kent, Ralph Cole

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 45-6-209, relative to pawnshop transactions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 45-6-209, is amended by deleting the word "and" at the end of subsection (b)(5); by deleting the period at the end of subsection (b)(6) and substituting instead a semi-colon and the word "and"; and by adding the following language as a new subdivision to be designated as follows:

(7) As a pilot project, in any county having a population in excess of eight hundred thousand (800,000), and in any county having a population of not less than three hundred eighty-two thousand (382,000) nor more than three hundred eighty-two thousand one hundred (382,100) according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent federal census, the right thumbprint of the pledgor, provided that if taking the right thumbprint is not possible the pawnbroker shall take a fingerprint from the left thumb or another finger and shall identify on the pawn ticket which finger has been used. A thumb or fingerprint taken pursuant to this subpart shall be maintained by the pawnbroker for a period of five (5) years from the date of the pawn transaction.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 45, Chapter 6, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new sections:

Section 45-6-222.

(a) The following procedure shall be employed when a law enforcement officer, as defined in §39-11-106, seeks to obtain a subpoena for the production of a thumbprint taken and maintained pursuant to § 45-6-209(b)(7) for the purpose of establishing, investigating or gathering evidence for the prosecution of a criminal offense.

(b) If the officer has reason to believe that a criminal offense has been committed or is being committed and that requiring the production of a thumbprint in the possession of a pawnbroker is necessary to establish who committed or is committing the offense or to aid in the investigation and prosecution of the person or persons believed to have committed or believed to be committing the offense, the officer shall prepare an affidavit in accordance with subsection (c).

(c) An affidavit in support of a request to compel the production of a thumbprint from a pawnbroker shall state with particularity the following:

(1) A statement that a specific criminal offense has been committed or is being committed and the nature of such offense;

(2) The articulable reasons why the law enforcement officer believes the production of the thumbprint requested will materially assist in the investigation of the specific offense committed or being committed;

(3) The name and address of the pawnbroker maintaining the thumbprint; and

(4) The nexus between the thumbprint requested and the criminal offense committed or being committed.

(d) (1) Upon preparing the affidavit, the law enforcement officer shall submit it to either a judge of a court of record or a general sessions judge who serves the officer's county or city of jurisdiction. The judge shall examine the affidavit and may examine the affiants under oath. The judge may grant the request for a subpoena to produce the thumbprint requested if the judge finds that the affiants have presented a reasonable basis for believing that:

(A) A specific criminal offense has been committed or is being committed;

(B) Production of the requested thumbprint will materially assist law enforcement in the establishment or investigation of such offense;

(C) There exists a clear and logical nexus between the thumbprint requested and the offense committed or being committed; and

(D) The scope of the request is not unreasonably broad or the thumbprint unduly burdensome to produce.

(2) If the judge finds that all of the criteria set out in subsection (d)(1) do not exist as to the thumbprint requested, the judge shall deny the request for subpoena.

(e) The affidavit filed in support of any request for the issuance of a subpoena pursuant to this section shall be filed with and maintained by the court. If a subpoena is issued as the result of such an affidavit, such affidavit shall be kept under seal by the judge until a copy is requested by the district attorney general, criminal charges are filed in the case, or the affidavit is ordered released by a court of record for good cause.

(f) A subpoena granted pursuant to this section by a judge of a court of record shall issue to any part of the state and shall command the pawnbroker to whom it is directed to produce any thumbprint that is specified in such subpoena to the law enforcement officer and at such reasonable time and place as is designated in the subpoena. A subpoena granted pursuant to this section by a judge of a court of general sessions shall in all respects be like a subpoena

granted by the judge of a court of record but shall issue only within the county in which such sessions judge has jurisdiction. The court shall prepare or cause to be prepared the subpoena and it shall describe the specific thumbprint requested and set forth the date and manner it is to be delivered to the officer.

(g) If the subpoena is issued by a judge of a court of record, it may be served by the officer in any county of the state by personal service, certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any other means with the consent of the person named in the subpoena. If the subpoena is issued by a judge of a general sessions court it shall be served by an officer with jurisdiction in the county of the issuing judge but may be served by personal service, certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any other means with the consent of the person named in the subpoena. The officer shall maintain a copy of the subpoena and endorse thereon the date and manner of service as proof thereof.

(h) No pawnbroker shall be excused from complying with a subpoena for the production of a thumbprint maintained by such pawnbroker issued pursuant to this section on the ground that production of the requested thumbprint may tend to incriminate such pawnbroker. Any pawnbroker claiming such privilege against self incrimination must assert such claim before the court issuing the subpoena promptly and before the time designated for compliance therewith. If the district attorney general thereafter certifies to the court that the interests of justice demands the production of the thumbprint for which the claim of privilege is asserted, then the court shall order the production of such thumbprint and no such pawnbroker shall be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning the requested thumbprint the pawnbroker was compelled to produce.

(i) No subpoena for the production of a thumbprint as authorized by this section shall be directed to, or served upon, any defendant, or his counsel, in a criminal action in this state, any person who is suspected of committing a criminal offense or any person who is the subject of a criminal investigation.

(j) If any pawnbroker, without cause, refuses to produce the requested thumbprint within the time and manner designated for compliance by the issuing judge, the district attorney shall seek a writ of attachment from the issuing court to seize the pawnbroker within the state and that pawnbroker may be held in civil contempt and committed to jail therein to remain without bail until willing to comply with the subpoena as the law directs.

#### Section 45-6-223.

(a) No law enforcement officer or agency shall use any thumb or other print obtained pursuant to § 45-6-222, for the purpose of racial profiling.

(b) (1) Any person residing within the jurisdiction of the law enforcement officer or agency alleged to have violated this section may petition the chancery or circuit court of such county for injunctive relief under this act. The court in which such a petition is filed shall conduct a show cause hearing to determine if thumb or other prints obtained pursuant to § 45-6-222 have been used by a law enforcement officer or agency for the purpose of racial profiling.

(2) If the court finds by a preponderance of evidence that a violation of this section has occurred, it shall grant an injunction prohibiting such officer or agency from obtaining thumb or other prints pursuant to § 45-6-222 for the period specified in subsection (c) of this section.

(3) If the court finds by a preponderance of evidence that a violation of this section has not occurred, it shall deny the petition for an injunction.

(c) (1) A law enforcement officer or agency who violates the provisions of this section for the first time shall be enjoined from requesting subpoenas for the production of thumb or other prints pursuant to § 45-6-222 for a period of six (6) months.

(2) A law enforcement officer or agency who violates the provisions of this section for the second time shall be enjoined from requesting subpoenas for the production of thumb or other prints pursuant to § 45-6-222 for a period of one (1) year.

(3) A law enforcement officer or agency who violates the provisions of this section for a third or subsequent time shall be permanently enjoined from requesting subpoenas for the production of thumb or other prints pursuant to § 45-6-222.

#### Section 45-6-224.

(a) All pawnshops that are required to take and maintain thumb or other prints pursuant to § 45-6-209(b)(7) shall be required to place a sign at least ten inches by fourteen inches (10" X 14") in a prominent location reasonably close in proximity to the place where the pawn transaction will occur. Such sign shall contain language in bold type substantially similar to the following:

**WARNING! IF YOU CONDUCT A PAWN TRANSACTION AT THIS ESTABLISHMENT YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO GIVE A THUMBPRINT BEFORE SUCH TRANSACTION MAY BE COMPLETED AND YOUR THUMBPRINT MAY BE OBTAINED AND USED BY THE POLICE.**

(b) Any pawnbroker who fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100) and such noncompliance shall be grounds for the suspension of such pawnbroker's license.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 45-6-209, is amended by adding the following new appropriately lettered new subsections:

( ) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the contrary, in counties or municipalities that require a thumbprint pursuant to subsection (b)(7) of this section, if the pawn transaction involves a firearm, the pawnbroker shall exclude from the information sent to law enforcement

pursuant to subsection (b)(1)--(b)(6) of this section, the name, address and identification numbers required by subsection (b)(6) of the pledgor pawning the firearm. The name, address and identification numbers of the pledgor shall remain with the pawnbroker along with the pledgor's thumbprint. A law enforcement officer inspecting a record involving a firearm pursuant to subsections (d) or (e) of this section shall not take or record the name, address and identification numbers of the pledgor except pursuant to a subpoena as provided in subpart (2) of this subsection.

(2) If a court grants the request of a law enforcement officer for a subpoena to require the production of the thumbprint of a pledgor taken and maintained pursuant to subsection (b)(7) of this section pursuant to the procedure set out in this section, the pawnbroker shall at the same time supply the law enforcement officer with the name, address and identification numbers of the pledgor whose thumbprint was subpoenaed.

( ) (1) It is an offense for a law enforcement officer or agency to use any information supplied by a pawnbroker pursuant to the provisions of this section to create or maintain a separate registry, list or database of persons who own firearms.


(2) A violation of this subsection is a Class A misdemeanor.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

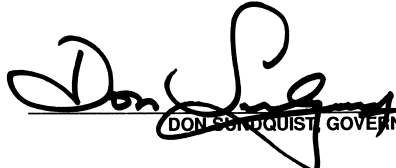
SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: June 22, 2001**

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**APPROVED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 2001**

  
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR